



Society of American Foresters

Review and Discussion of “Ethics Guide”

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April 18, 2006



Presentation Overview

- Ethic: Webster’s Definitions
- SAF Code of Ethics
 - Pre-Amble
 - Principles and Pledges
- Ethical Reflection Steps
- Case Studies
 - Discussion, Discussion ,Discussion...
- Recurring Solutions to Ethical Questions



Ethic:

- The discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty of obligation.
- A theory or system of moral values.
- The principles of conduct governing an individual or a group**.


Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary 1988



SAF Code of Ethics - Preamble


Service to society is the cornerstone of any profession. The profession of forestry serves society by fostering stewardship of the world's forests. Because forests provide valuable resources and perform critical ecological functions, they are vital to the wellbeing of both society and the biosphere.

SAF Code of Ethics - Preamble




Members of the Society of American Foresters have a deep and enduring love for the land, and are inspired by the profession's historic traditions, such as Gifford Pinchot's utilitarianism and Aldo Leopold's ecological conscience. In their various roles as practitioners, teachers, researchers, advisers, and administrators, foresters seek to sustain and protect a variety of forest uses and attributes, such as aesthetic values, air and water quality, biodiversity, recreation, timber production, and wildlife habitat.

SAF Code of Ethics - Preamble




The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives. Compliance with the code demonstrates members' respect for the land and their commitment to the long-term management of ecosystems, and ensures just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

Principles and Pledges

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1. Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.

Principles and Pledges

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2. Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.

Principles and Pledges




3. Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.

Principles and Pledges




4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.

Principles and Pledges

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5. Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.

Principles and Pledges

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6. Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.

Ethical Reflection Steps

1. What parts and principles apply
2. Identify implications, interpretations and potential conflicts
3. State the specific ethical problem
4. List arguments and uncertainties
5. Develop tentative conclusion
6. Test the conclusion before acting



Another Reflection Process

1. What does my conscience say?
2. What would it be like if everyone did this?
3. How would it feel if everyone knew about this?
4. How will I feel about this tomorrow?

Patterson (1994)



Case 1 – Forest Stewardship



- 150,000 acre uneven aged, regulated forest
- Long ownership history (50+ yrs)
- Goal: Increase cash flow (double cut)
- Issues:
 - disruption in future cash flow
 - future forest dominated by poor quality trees

Obligations? Suggestions? Solutions?

Case 5 – Clearcut vs Partial Cut



- Background: NIPF Landowner
- Goal: Produce immediate income
- Issue:
 - Landowner will not pay for reforestation expenses
 - Conflict of interest

Obligations? Suggestions? Solutions?

Case 10 – Conflict of Interest

Background: Forest Biometrician at major forestry school

Goal: Participate in the research project at some level

Issue: Asked to work for two entities on the same project

Obligations? Suggestions? Solutions?



Recurring Solutions to Ethical Questions

- Clearly define a scope of work.
- Full Disclose potential conflicts
- Put it in writing
- Maintain files.

Exceed the Goal.

BE A PROFESSIONALS!

